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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

23 November 1979

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Soviet Forces in the Transcaucasus and Turkestan
Military Districts

1. Introduction: Relative to the forces stationed opposite NATO Europe and China, the Soviets maintain a small portion of their air and ground forces in the Transcaucasus and Turkestan Military Districts. The forces in the Transcaucasus MD are primarily intended to defend against an attack from Turkey and are only secondarily intended to counter an assault from Iran. The forces in the Turkestan MD are intended to defend the USSR from an attack from Iran or Afghanistan, but some of them probably would also be used against China. []

2. Transcaucasus Military District: Soviet Strategic Air Defense Aviation currently has some 130 modern interceptors assigned to four airfields in the Transcaucasus Military District (See Table 1). Strategic Air Defense Aviation is primarily intended to defend Soviet territory, but its forces could be used in areas immediately beyond the border. []

3. Soviet Tactical Aviation has approximately 275 combat aircraft--mainly modern fighters and fighter-bombers--assigned to six airfields in the Transcaucasus Military District. The primary mission of Soviet Tactical Aviation is the support of Soviet ground forces, but these aircraft could be used to attack targets in Turkey or Iran or for air defense missions in these areas in a matter of hours. []

This memorandum was prepared by the Office of Strategic Research, A []

Comments and queries may be directed to []

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Table 1

Strategic Air Defense and Tactical Aviation in the Transcaucasus MD

Strategic Air Defense Aviation

	<u>SU-15</u>	<u>MIG-25</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gudauta	35		35
Kyuradmir	30		30
Nasosnyy		35	35
Tbilisi/Marneuli	30		30
	<u>95</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>130</u>

Tactical Aviation

	<u>Counter Air</u>		<u>Ground Attack</u>		<u>Reconnaissance</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>MIG-23</u>	<u>MIG-21</u>	<u>SU-24</u>	<u>SU-17</u>	<u>MIG-25</u>	<u>Others</u>	
Mikha Tskhaya	45						45
Makharadze	45						45
Tbilisi		45				30	75
Zemo Kedi				45			45
Samtredia East			35				35
Dalliyar					15	15	30
	<u>90</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>275</u>

4. The Soviets maintain two major quick reaction units in the Transcaucasus Military District--an airmobile brigade at Kutaisi and an airborne division headquartered at Kirovabad. The lightly equipped airmobile brigade is manned at 75 percent or more of its wartime strength of 1,500 and is supported by a helicopter transport regiment of some 60 aircraft, which is sufficient to move a battalion of about 400 men. The airborne division is manned at 75 percent or more of its wartime strength of 7,300 men and is colocated with a regiment of some 35 AN-12 Cubs that is sufficient to move a battalion of some 400 men and 30 BMD combat vehicles. Both the airmobile brigade and the airborne division could be fully mobilized within 24 hours, and the Soviets could deploy additional aircraft to support these units within that time.

5. The Soviets have 11 divisions--all motorized rifle--in the Transcaucasus Military District. The units at Yerevan and Leninakan, which have a full complement of combat equipment and are manned at about half their wartime strength of some 12,200 men, could be combat ready within 48 hours. The other nine units lack some of their combat equipment and are manned at from about 10 to 30 percent of their full strength; they probably would require 72 hours or more to mobilize reserve personnel and equipment. Six of these divisions are along the Soviet border, and they each have a motorized rifle regiment that is manned at about 50 percent of their wartime strength of some 2,300 men as a peacetime reaction force. In addition, most of the higher echelon combat and logistics support units in the district are manned well below their wartime strengths and would also require substantial mobilization before they were combat ready. ☐

6. The motorized rifle divisions in the Transcaucasus Military District generally do not have the latest Soviet equipment. For example, the divisions are equipped with trucks and large numbers of BTR-152 armored personnel carriers instead of BTR-60PB and BMP infantry combat vehicles found in divisions opposite NATO Europe and China. The tank regiments that are part of these divisions almost totally are comprised of T-54/55 tanks; limited numbers of T-62 tanks are assigned to the units at Yerevan, Kirovakan, and Tbilisi. With the possible exception of the divisions at Leninakan which may be equipped with 122-mm self-propelled howitzers, the units are equipped exclusively with towed artillery. ☐

7. Turkestan Military District: Soviet Strategic Air Defense and Tactical Aviation have some 295 combat aircraft in the Turkestan Military District (See Table II). Of these, about 175 are assigned to Strategic Air Defense Aviation at five airfields; the other 120 are assigned to Tactical Aviation and are stationed at three airfields. ☐

8. The Soviets have five divisions--one airborne and four motorized rifle units--in the Turkestan Military District. The airborne division at Fergana is supported by an AN-12 Cub regiment of some 35 aircraft and, like the

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Table II

Soviet Strategic Air Defense and Tactical Aviation Aircraft
in the Turkestan MD

Strategic Air Defense Aviation

	<u>SU-15</u>	<u>MIG-23</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ashkhabad/Bezmein		35	35
Karshi/Khanabad		35	35
Krasnovodsk		35	35
Mary North	35		35
Nebit Dag		35	35
	<u>35</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>175</u>

Tactical Aviation

	<u>Counter Air</u> <u>MIG-21</u>	<u>Ground Attack</u>		<u>Reconnaissance</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>SU-17</u>	<u>MIG-21</u>	<u>MIG-21</u>	<u>Others</u>	
Karshi/Khanabad				15	15	30
Kizyl Arvat		15	30			45
Kokayty	<u>45</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>120</u>
	45					

airborne division in the Transcaucasus Military District, could be fully combat ready in less than 24 hours. Of the motorized rifle divisions, the one at Kizyl Arvat, which has most of its combat equipment and is manned at roughly half its wartime strength, could be combat ready within about 48 hours. The other divisions are cadre units and probably would require 72 hours or more to mobilize personnel and equipment to be ready for combat. In addition, most of the higher echelon combat and logistics support units in the district are manned well below their wartime strengths and would also require substantial mobilization. ☐

9. Like the divisions in the Transcaucasus Military District, the units in the Turkestan Military District do not possess the latest equipment. For example, the tank regiments that are part of the motorized rifle divisions are exclusively equipped with T-54/55 tanks. ☐

Attachments:

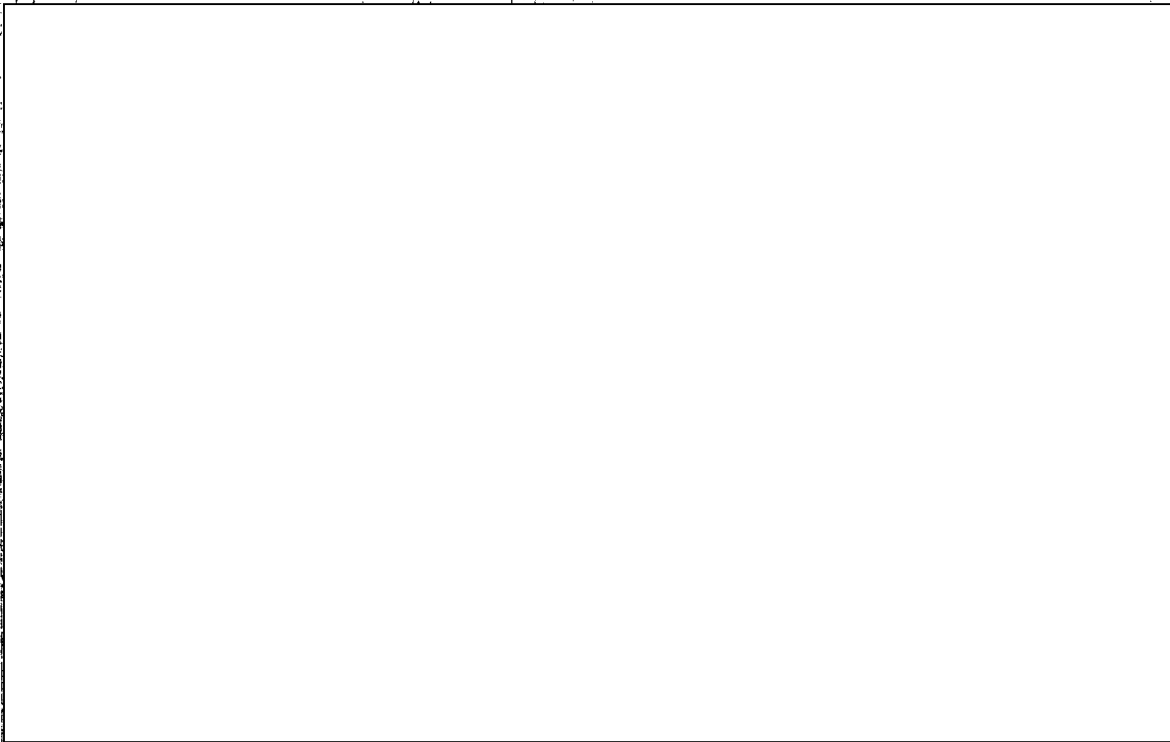
Att. A - Newer Soviet
Interceptors and
Tactical Aircraft

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Attachments (continued)

Att. B - Soviet Ground Force
Equipment

Att. C - Map: Soviet Forces
in the Transcaucasus and
Turkestan Military
Districts

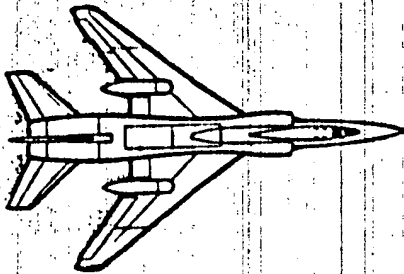


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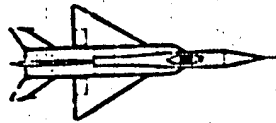
ATTACHMENT A

Soviet Interceptors
Newer Models

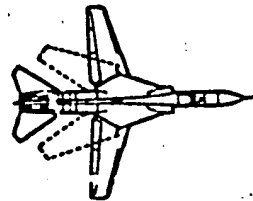
TU-128 Fiddler
Medium-to-high altitude



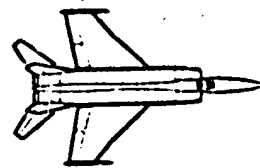
SU-15 Flagon
Medium-to-high altitude



MIG-23 Flogger
Low-to-medium altitude



MIG-25 Foxbat
High altitude



Maximum combat radius*

810 nm with 4 AAMs

Maximum speed

950 kn

Overall length

28 m

Year operational

1966

420 nm with 2 or 4 AAMs
plus cannon

1,050 kn

18 m

1967

815 nm with 4 AAMs
plus cannon

1,300 kn

16 m

1970

450 nm with 4 AAMs

1,625 kn

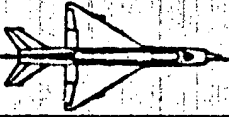
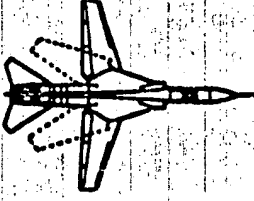
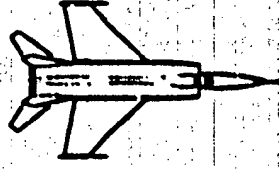
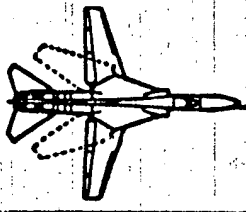
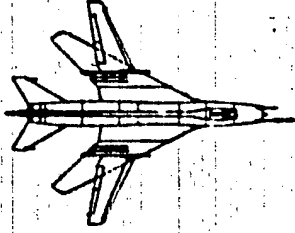
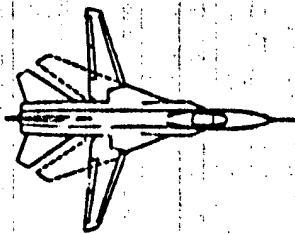
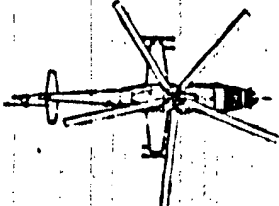
20 m

1970

*The combat radius given is for a mission flown entirely at medium-to-high altitudes.
Other flight profiles would reduce the radius considerably.

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Newer Soviet Tactical Aviation Aircraft



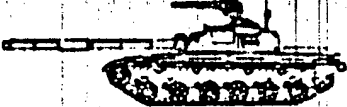
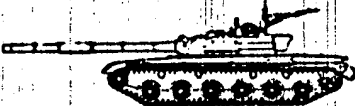
		Maximum Combat Radius *	Maximum Speed	Missile Armament	Overall Length	Year Operatio
MIG-21 Fishbed L		250 nm with 1,500 kg of bombs	1,225 kn	AA-2.8; AS-7	16 m	1973
MIG-23 Flogger B		500 nm with 2,000 kg of bombs	1,350 kn	AA-2/7/8; AS-7	18 m	1972
MIG-25 Foxbat B/D		325 nm with 2,700 kg of bombs	1,625 kn	—	20 m	1970
MIG-27 Flogger D		500 nm with 2,000 kg of bombs	975 kn	AS-7/10; AA-2/8	18 m	1975
SU-17 Flitter C/D		325 nm with 2,000 kg of bombs	1,200 kn	AS-7/9/10; AA-2/8	19 m	1973/76
SU-24 Fencer A		525 nm with 5,000 kg of bombs	1,425 kn	AS-7/9/10; AA-2/8	21 m	1974
MI-24 Hind A/D		175 nm with 2,000 kg of bombs	165 kn	AT-2/8	17 m	1972/76

* The combat radius given is for a mission flown at low altitudes over the combat area but at high altitudes elsewhere. Other, more realistic, flight profiles would reduce the radius considerably.

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ATTACHMENT B


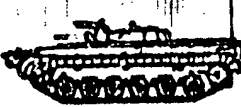

Soviet Medium Tanks

	Main Armament	Armor	Weight	Overall Length	Year Operational
T-54/55 	100 mm	Steel	36 tons	6.2 m	1949/58
T-62 	115 mm smoothbore gun	Steel	37 tons	6.6 m	1961
T-64 	125 mm smoothbore gun	Laminate	38 tons	6.3 m	1970
T-72 	125 mm smoothbore gun	Laminate	41 tons	6.9 m	1974

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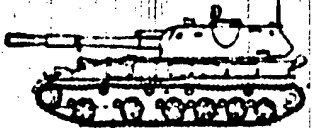
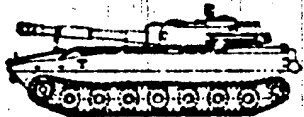
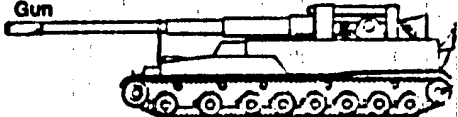
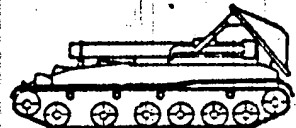
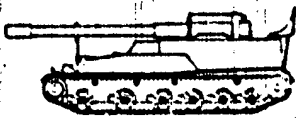
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Soviet Combat Infantry Vehicles

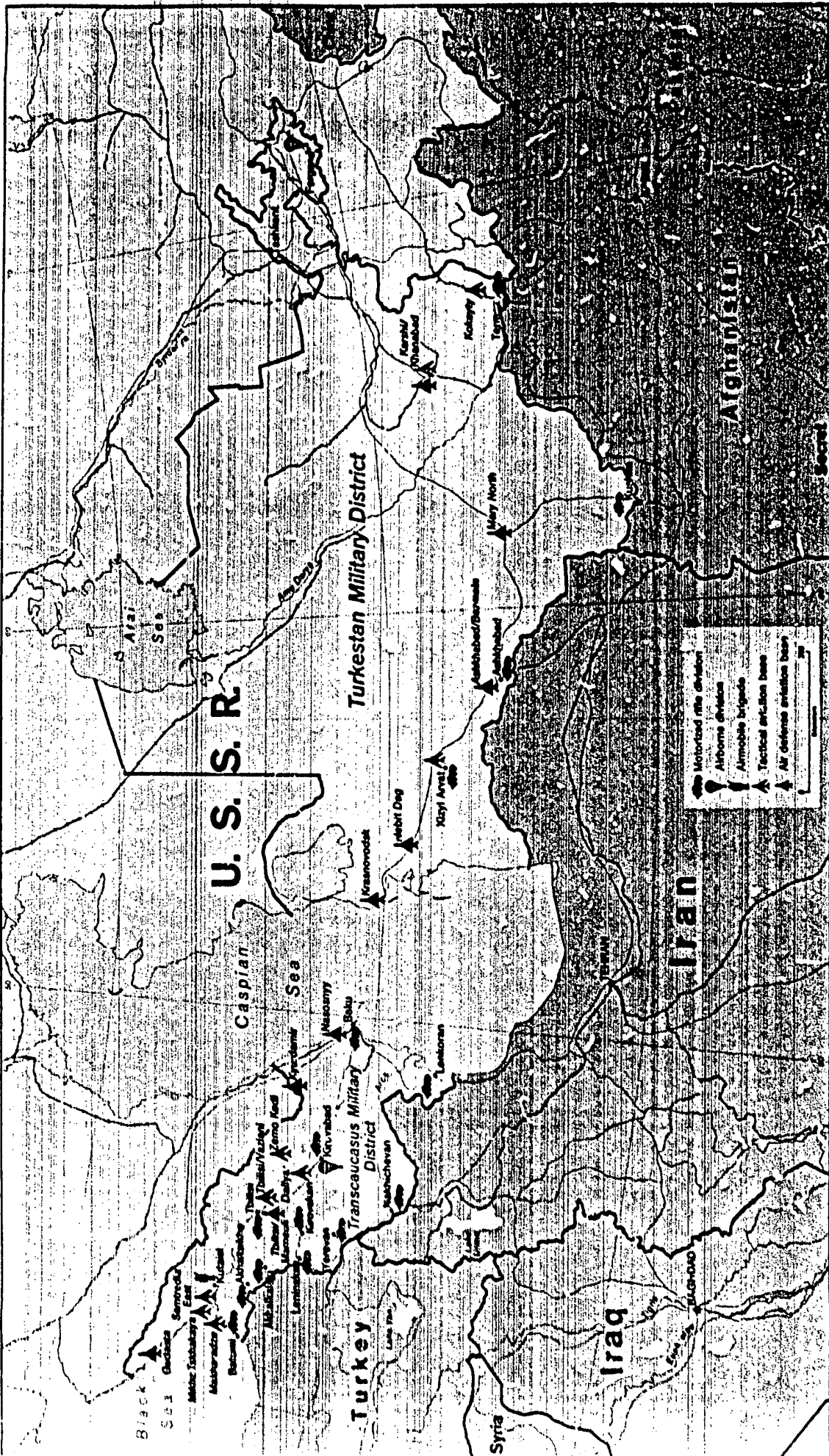
	Main Armament	Speed		Capacity	Overall Length	Year Operational
		Land	Water			
BTR-60PB 	14.5-mm and 7.62-mm machine guns	80 km/hr	10 km/hr	3 crewmen, 8 troops	7.2 m	1961
BMP 	73-mm gun, 7.62-mm machine gun, Sagger or upgraded antitank missile	65 km/hr	6 km/hr	3 crewmen, 8 troops	6.7 m	1967
BMD with airborne units 	73-mm gun, three 7.62-mm machine guns, Sagger or upgraded antitank missile	80 km/hr	10 km/hr	3 crewmen, 8 troops	5.4 m	1970

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Soviet Self-Propelled Artillery

		Main Armament	Maximum Range	Overall Length	Year Operational
M-1973 Howitzer		152 mm	17,300 m	7.3 m	1973
M-1974 Howitzer		122 mm	15,300 m	7.4 m	1974
M-1975 Gun		203 mm (probable)	28,000-30,000 m	9.2 m	1977
M-1977 Mortar		240 mm	12,000 m	7.4 m	1977
M-1977 Gun-howitzer		203 mm (probable)	22,000-24,000 m	7.2	1979

Soviet Forces in the Transcaucasus and Turkestan Military Districts



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